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# Reports from State and Local Child Labor Committees

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## REPORT FROM CITIZENS' CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The agitation to secure the enactment of a child labor law for the District of Columbia has as yet produced no tangible results. A bill for the regulation of child labor was introduced at the last session of Congress, and was under consideration at the time of the last annual meeting of the National Child Labor Committee. This bill was finally talked to death by its opponents, and the session closed with the District of Columbia still retaining its unenviable distinction of being one of the few jurisdictions in the United States without any law for the regulation of child labor.

Early in the present session of Congress the bill advocated at the last session was again introduced into both Houses. No action has as yet been taken by the House of Representatives. In the Senate, Mr. Dolliver, chairman of the committee on education and labor, has made a favorable report on the measure, and it is at present the unfinished business on the Senate calendar. Consideration of the bill has already been twice postponed in order to enable Senator Beveridge to introduce an amendment providing for the national regulation of child labor. This complication of a local problem with a national issue was responsible for much of the delay which resulted in the failure of the local measure at the last session. The local committee's hope that each measure might be considered independently will apparently not be realized.<sup>1</sup>

During the past twelve months, three well attended public meetings on the subject of child labor have been held; the first under the auspices of the Twentieth Century Club; the second under the auspices of the Federation of Women's Clubs and the third under the auspices of the local patriotic societies of women. In addition, several meetings of smaller organizations have been held, in all of which an active interest was shown. Newspaper editorials and discussions of local conditions have appeared frequently and have been successful in directing attention to the needs of the capital city in this connection.

HENRY J. HARRIS,  
*Secretary.*

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## REPORT OF THE CONSUMERS' LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS

The main practical work of the Consumers' League of Illinois for the year 1907 has consisted in its co-operation with the state in enforcing the child labor law. After the law was enacted, regular investigations were

<sup>1</sup>The District of Columbia Child Labor Bill finally passed both Houses and was approved May 28, 1908.

made at a holiday period and at the opening of school, to learn how thorough was the enforcement and the effect of the law on attendance at school.

Much financial support has been given in employing attendants to watch and bridge over certain loopholes in the law, without which its effectiveness would have been greatly hindered; such as the year's experiment of employing the attendant for the central office representing the parochial schools, after which it was taken by the Catholic church and is now a regular part of the law's enforcement in Chicago.

The establishment of this central office was a provision of the original bill, but the bill was weakened in the committee room in Springfield by an amendment which made it possible for the principal of each school to issue certificates, thereby losing uniformity in the enforcement of the law, as well as the possibility of collecting valuable data and experience. In order to test the efficacy of enforcement, more than fifty public and parochial schools were visited in the industrial districts. The results of these investigations furnished data for conferences which were held with the public school authorities and with Archbishop Quigley. These conferences resulted in the establishment of a central office, with two representatives, one for the public schools and one for the Catholic parochial schools.

To this office the children between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, who wish to go to work, are now required to come with their parents, bringing their school record; here they are tested as to their ability to read and write. The parent's affidavit is taken and the final age and school certificate given to the child. The records concerning each child are carefully filed. These records in certain cases may prove valuable to the State Factory Inspector, and are also open for legitimate public use and inspection.

For over three years the secretary of the League has investigated the ages of all children applying to the county court for working certificates, and the court has acted upon the recommendation of the secretary in giving or withholding the required certificate.

Without this work of the secretary of the League, the part of the child labor law which concerns mostly the children of foreigners, our poorest people, would be practically ineffective, for the law does not provide any way of learning the facts regarding the ages of these children.

The secretary has regular office hours at the central office of the Bureau of Charities in the city, where, if the proof of the age of the child is easily obtainable, the recommendation may be secured; but generally it is necessary for her to visit the house of the child, and often to write to some other city or state, or foreign country; to visit the school where the child attended, and look up all records or facts obtainable, until she is convinced and feels competent to recommend or not recommend the certificate. During July and August of this year seventy-five such children were referred to her for investigation.

Glass manufacturers are proverbially open opponents of child labor legislation, and also persistent violators of laws when secured in spite of their opposition. The Alton Glass Works has long been a center of interest to those opposing child labor in Illinois. The place has been repeatedly visited

by the secretary of the League, and publicity given to conditions found. These facts were learned, not at the factory, where of late she has been refused admittance, but in the homes of the children who work in the factory and by talking with laboring people of Alton. At the time of the last visit, the secretary was accompanied by a member of the board of the Consumers' League, Mrs. Mather Smith, and also by a photographer. A change for the better was very apparent; very few small children were found, and the belief was general that the laws were much better obeyed than formerly. This was largely due to the fact that the chief factory inspector had stationed a deputy in Alton for several weeks.

At the Industrial Exhibit, held in Chicago in March, 1907, one of the largest exhibits was under the care of the Consumers' League. One booth showed the nut-picking industry in the home. Charts and pictures of children in various industries, showed their size and conditions of employment. One exhibit brought out the contrast of work of educational value, which children may do, and the mechanical and monotonous work so many are doing without an element of education. The one was shown by working students from the normal school, the other by children from one of the box factories making boxes.

At the time "Peter Pan" was presented in Chicago, the board of the Consumers' League, at the suggestion and with the co-operation of Mr. Davies, the factory inspector, was able to influence the management of the theatrical company to substitute children over sixteen for the younger ones brought from New York to take part in the play.

On July 1, 1908, the present child labor law of Illinois will have been in effect five years. From the reports of the central office, the factory inspectors and the court, it is learned that one of the most important defects in the Illinois law is its educational test, which simply requires a child to read and write simple sentences in any language. The records of 1906 and 1907 from the central office show that from the *public schools alone* 1,467 children were given working certificates from the *fourth, third, second and first grades*.

Children who come through the county court sometimes receive certificates. Although they cannot read, write or understand a word of English, the law entitles them to certificates.

A weak point in our situation is that children presumably of sixteen are not required to prove their age. The result is that, in spite of care on the part of factory inspectors, children of fifteen and even younger are working, claiming that they are sixteen. These children, of course, do not secure papers in the regular way, as they claim to be sixteen, but where any question is raised on the part of the employer they can get an affidavit through some notary without proof.

The report from the central office for the public schools, for the year ended July 1, 1907, shows that 11,681 age and schooling certificates were issued to children ranging in age from fourteen years to fifteen years and eleven months.

The report further shows that 10,388 of these certificates were issued

to American children and 1,293 to foreign children representing twenty-six nationalities. The nationalities that predominate in this list are in the following order: Russian, Italian, German, Bohemian, Austro-Hungarian.

The following table shows the grades of children receiving age and school certificates:

<i>Grade.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
First .....	8	8	16
Second .....	68	43	111
Third .....	229	103	332
Fourth .....	652	350	1,002
Fifth .....	1,241	676	1,917
Sixth .....	1,609	787	2,396
Seventh .....	1,386	760	2,146
Eighth .....	1,901	1,055	2,956
Ninth .....	269	115	384
Tenth .....	50	22	72
Eleventh .....	4	3	7
Twelfth .....	1	0	1
Unclassified and Evening.....	236	105	341
Total .....	7,654	4,027	11 681

HARRIET M. VAN DER VAART,  
*Secretary.*

## REPORT OF THE KENTUCKY CHILD LABOR ASSOCIATION

The Kentucky Child Labor Association was organized December 12, 1906, and was incorporated February, 1907. One thousand copies of the child labor law of 1906 were printed and distributed to the newspapers, presidents of county medical societies and county judges in the one hundred and nineteen counties of the state. This old law was, however, inadequate. Children under fourteen could work if the judge could be made to believe that "there was no other means of support," and only an affidavit, sworn to before any notary, was necessary to secure employment for a child claiming to be between fourteen and sixteen years of age.

The chief work of the Kentucky Child Labor Association was, therefore, to obtain a better law. The investigations of the Kentucky Consumers' League, which had been conducted under the direction of Miss Frances Ingram, of Louisville, were taken as a basis for the needed legislation. The Consumers' League has for eight years been engaged in enforcing the child labor and compulsory education laws, and, since the establishment of the juvenile court, has assisted in investigating those cases which come to the court with requests for working papers for children under fourteen. The Child Labor Association had, therefore, but to turn to the Consumers' League to find that in Louisville alone 438 applications for these permits had been made to the court during the past year, and that the amazingly

large number of 301 had been granted; that the League had established a scholarship fund and kept fifteen children at school on it during the year; and that it was conjectured from the appearance of the children seen at work in factories and elsewhere, that there are thousands of children in Kentucky employed under the age of fourteen on perjured affidavits.

Following is a synopsis of a child labor bill which the Child Labor Association thereupon drafted for the State of Kentucky;

#### EMPLOYMENTS PROHIBITED.

Section One.—*Children under fourteen not to be employed:*

(A) Under any circumstances during school time;

(B) Nor at any time in, nor in connection with, any factory, workshop, mine, mercantile establishment, store, business office, telegraph office, restaurant, hotel, apartment house or in the distribution or transmission of merchandise or messages.

Section Two.—*Children between fourteen and sixteen not to be employed in any factory, workshop, mine, or mercantile establishment without an employment certificate.*

#### EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES.

Section Three.—Employment certificates to be issued by school authorities (superintendent, if any).

#### HOW OBTAINED.

Sections Four and Six.—Preliminaries to issuance of employment certificate are:

1. Proof of age (*i. e.*, proof of date and place of birth).
2. Filing of "school record;" *i. e.*, a certificate from the principal of the school last attended that the child has been at school for one hundred days in year next before reaching fourteen, or next before the application for the employment certificate; that he can read and write simple English sentences, and that he has had instruction in geography and the simple parts in arithmetic (*i. e.*, *through common fractions*). If school record is not obtainable, an examination on these points may take its place.

#### CONTENTS.

Section Five.—Employment certificates shall state:—

1. Date and place of birth of child.
2. Color of hair and eyes, height and weight.
3. And that the required preliminaries (Sections 4 and 6) have been observed.

#### RECORD.

Section Seven.—School Board to furnish labor inspector monthly with list of certificates issued.

# HOURS OF WORK.

Section Eight.—(A) Children *under sixteen* not to work longer than ten hours a day, nor longer than sixty hours a week.

(B) Hours of work, for such persons, to begin not sooner than 7 a. m. nor to continue later than 7 p. m.

(C) In retail stores only, while the hours per week are limited to sixty, the hours for a single day may be twelve and work until 10 p. m. is permitted (in such stores) on Saturday only.

(D) Printed notice of hours of labor to be conspicuously posted.

# PENALTIES.

Sections Nine and Eighteen.

I. Against Employers.

(A) For employing a child in violation of this act, from \$25.00 to \$50.00 for first offence.

(B) *For each subsequent offence*, imprisonment from 10 to 90 days or fine from \$50.00 to \$200.00, or both.

(C) For continuing an illegal employment after notice from truant officer or labor inspector, from \$5.00 to \$20.00 fine.

(D) For failure to surrender certificates when demanded, \$10.00 fine.

II. Against Officer Issuing Certificate.

For false statement in certificate, \$10.00 to \$100.00 fine.

# VISITATION.

Section Ten.—The right of visitation given truant officers and labor inspector.

# SANITARY REGULATIONS.

Section Eleven.—Certain employments, dangerous to health or life, forbidden to children under sixteen.

Sections Twelve, Thirteen, Fourteen and Fifteen.—These contain sanitary regulations for establishments where children under sixteen are employed.

# PROSECUTIONS.

Section Sixteen.—Inquisitorial powers for investigating violations of this act given to grand juries, county and circuit judges.

Section Seventeen.—Copy of this act to be conspicuously posted.

# WHEN THE ACT BECOMES EFFECTIVE.

Section Nineteen.—September 1, 1908. Act then to go into effect; *except*, that the requirement of a "school record," or in default thereof an examination, shall not be effective until September 1, 1909.

*Note.*—These provisions meet two predicted difficulties:

*First.*—The postponement to September 1, 1908, gives ample opportunity

for obtaining employment certificates for the numerous children between fourteen and sixteen now employed.

*Second.*—The postponement to September 1, 1908, of the operation of the educational test gives ample warning to all proposing to enter employments at the age of fourteen or fifteen that they must prepare themselves for that test; and it avoids the unnecessary harshness of suddenly requiring of children now at work a fitness not formerly demanded, and perhaps beyond their power to obtain without unreasonable sacrifice and hardship.

The effect of these provisions is that after September 1, 1909, the act will be in full operation.

*Section Twenty.*—Repealing clause.

This measure was presented to the 1908 General Assembly and passed. It will not be in full operation until September, 1909, because it was thought wise to get the families slowly in readiness for the enforcement of the educational qualifications; but the main feature of the law, that is, the certificates of age required of children between fourteen and sixteen, will go into effect in ninety days. The Child Labor Association and the Consumers' League will combine forces to prevent, so far as possible, unnecessary suffering contingent upon such a change as this law will cause.

ANNIE A. HALLECK,  
*Secretary.*

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## REPORT OF THE MARYLAND CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

The Maryland Child Labor Committee, while not entirely inactive during the past year, has not done much that can be covered in a report. For a short time a special investigator was employed to look into conditions in the canneries of the state, but another bad season failed to develop anything more definite than the investigation of the year previous.

No effort was made during the past winter to secure additional legislation, as it was deemed wiser to try to secure the enforcement of existing laws. After this decision was reached, the Child Labor Committee, as such, took no further action. A conference of varied interests was called together, and this group of people made an earnest effort to secure the reorganization of the Bureau of Statistics and Information, which is charged with enforcing child labor laws and other factory legislation. The conference went to Annapolis in a body and waited upon the Governor, urging the necessity for appointing a chief of the bureau for other than party reasons, and insisting upon the principle of efficiency and a constructive grasp of the problems confronting the bureau. The only apparent effect was that the Governor caused a private investigation of the bureau to be made and then requested the resignation of the assistant chief of the bureau; the former chief, who is the chairman of the central committee of his party in Baltimore County, was reappointed, and the Governor recommended the appointment of the leader of his party in Frederick



County to the position of assistant chief, which appointment was subsequently made.

The Maryland Committee is now going through a stage of reorganization, with a view to strengthening its force, and it is probable that a paid secretary will soon be employed.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS.

As in 1906, the Federated Charities of Baltimore raised and disbursed all funds for scholarships or school pensions for children in the city, and the State Committee investigated all applications for scholarships in the counties. During the year the Federated Charities received sixty-eight applications, finding actual need in twenty-two cases, granting scholarships in ten and securing other relief in twelve. A total of \$1,160.95 was disbursed in amounts averaging \$2.50 per week per child, to children between twelve and sixteen years who were physically undeveloped or illiterate and so could not secure a working permit, and where such children's earnings were a necessary part of the family's income.

The State Committee received eleven applications in behalf of children in the counties, but upon investigation found scholarships could not be granted or were not needed in any one case. Other relief was found necessary in two instances and was secured through a local charity organization society.

H. WIRT STEELE,  
*Secretary.*

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#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHILD LABOR AND LEGISLATION OF THE CONSUMERS' LEAGUE OF MASSACHUSETTS

For the Industrial Exhibit held at Horticultural Hall early in April in Boston, this Committee prepared three illustrated charts. One chart was a statement of the number of children in the City of Boston to whom working certificates were granted by the school authorities in 1906. The number was 4,240 and the chart showed the age of the child, its sex, nationality and the grade from which it left school to enter a working life.

The second chart gave the number of children under sixteen employed in the State of Massachusetts according to the census of 1905. The number of children was 22,389. The number in each industry was also shown. A third chart indicated the effects of the law usually called the "illiteracy law," which went into operation in January, 1906. Reports from school superintendents in the five largest textile cities showed a decrease in that year of the number of certificates granted children between fourteen and sixteen, because of the requirements of this law.

Early in November, 1907, our Committee invited to a conference with Mrs. Florence Kelley representatives of twenty-five or more societies interested in the suppression of child labor.

Mrs. Kelley showed that Massachusetts is now behind other states,

notably Illinois and New York, in child labor legislation, and urged us to remedy this by introducing three bills at the coming Legislature. A sub-committee was appointed by this conference, called the Joint Child Labor Committee. On this Committee were Miss Edith Howes, Chairman; Miss Mabel Parton, of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union; Howard W. Brown, Meyer Bloomfield, of the Civic Service House, and Mr. Hartman of the Civic League, with Miss Charlotte Price as Secretary. They prepared and introduced into the Legislature of 1907-08 two bills, House Bill 396 and Senate Bill 172. The former provided that no one should employ a child under the age of sixteen more than eight hours a day, or between the hours of seven p. m. and six a. m. This bill has not been reported yet, but there is every reason to suppose that it will be reported favorably. The latter, Senate Bill 172, provided that no person should approve the age and schooling certificate required for a working child between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, until he procured from the physician, provided for in the bill, a health certificate stating that the child had been examined by him, and, in his opinion, had reached the normal development for a child of its age, was in sound health and was physically able to perform the work it intended to undertake. The school physician was authorized to furnish such certificates, or in cities or towns where no school physician had been appointed, or where there was a vacancy in this office, a physician to be appointed by the board of health.

This bill unfortunately met with opposition on the part of certain members of the Committee of the General Court, before which it was heard, and they refused to allow it to be reported without certain amendments, one of which, in regard to the physicians who should furnish such certificates, rendered it practically worthless. As the machinery for making a successful fight in the house against this amendment was not available at this time, it was regretfully decided to withdraw the bill until the next General Court. There is reason to hope that at that time, with stronger support on the part of the public, the matter may be brought to a successful issue.

MISS C. H. PRICE,

*Corresponding Secretary, Consumers' League.*

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#### REPORT OF THE MAINE CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

The campaign for better regulation of child labor in Maine was started by the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs in January, 1905. At that time no effort was made to investigate or suppress the conditions existing. The Education Committee of the Federation appealed to the Governor to appoint a woman as factory inspector, whereupon the Governor promised to appoint a man who should do the work satisfactorily, and, failing in this, that he would appoint a woman. George Morrison, of Saco, was appointed to the position and has given satisfactory proof that the laws can be enforced.

The club women joined forces with Mr. Morrison. An aggressive campaign for new and better laws was begun, to prepare for the Legislature which would convene at the end of the year. The compulsory school law requires every child to attend school until sixteen years of age, except during vacation, unless excused by the school authorities. A thorough investigation was made throughout the state and a large number of children found at work who should have been at school. The school authorities, both state and local, were at once interested and proved strong factors in the legislative work.

The labor laws were weak, the age limit being twelve years and the certificate of age permitting the unsupported signature of parent or guardian as proof of the child's age. The first step was to raise the age limit from twelve to fourteen years and to require a certificate giving stronger proof of age. Great activity and enthusiasm were shown in the education of public sentiment in favor of these amendments. The bill, which was presented to the legislature by Inspector Morrison, had the endorsement of Governor Cobb, the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs, the various school officials and prominent people throughout the state. It seemed probable at first that the bill would pass in the form presented, but the sardine canning industries prevailed and succeeded in exempting their interests during the summer months—the season of their greatest rush. With the exception of this clause, the bill was passed as presented, and the law became effective the following September. The factory inspector began active work and has taken practically all the children out of the manufacturing establishments in the state.

In May, 1907, the State Child Labor Committee was organized to look after the interests of the children; to strengthen the activities of the inspector and to determine what improvements were needed in the law. Some of the most prominent people in the state constitute this committee, among whom are the State Superintendent of Schools and the Commissioner of Industry and Labor Statistics. Both these officials have been of great assistance in the campaigns.

There is no longer need for convincing people of the necessity of laws to protect children; but our great need is better and more effective laws to protect children from all commercialism. Our mercantile establishments need inspection; night work should be prohibited, and the street trades regulated. At present there are very few children employed along these lines, but "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and laws to regulate these employments will be more easily secured now than later. Our work with the Legislature of 1908 will probably cover these points. In the meantime, we are quietly investigating and compiling facts for future use. With the great interest shown by the whole country in this problem, it would seem easy to influence legislation. Let us be hopeful.

MRS. ELLA JORDAN MASON,  
*Secretary.*

## REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

The child labor situation of Michigan is by no means as serious as that in other states, and the Michigan Child Labor Committee, since its organization has not entered upon an aggressive campaign. An effort will be made, however, for greater activity during the next legislative session and it is hoped that preventive measures, now being considered, will be passed successfully.

FRANK T. CARLTON,  
*Secretary.*

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## REPORT FROM THE CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE ALLIANCE OF MISSOURI

Prof. Edgar James Swift, Secretary of the Children's Protective Alliance of Missouri, reports that a synopsis of the child labor and compulsory education laws of Missouri, as amended and in force July 1, 1907, has been prepared by a lawyer and published by the Alliance in an eight-page leaflet. There is also appended to this synopsis a statement of the measures advocated by the Alliance:

1st. The simplification and codification of all child labor laws in Missouri.

2d. The extension of the prohibition of child labor throughout the whole state.

3d. Placing the factory inspector on a salary basis, with sufficient appropriation for effective inspection, instead of the present system of fees.

It is purposed to distribute this leaflet widely throughout the state. Copies will be cheerfully furnished upon application to the Secretary at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

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## REPORT OF THE NEBRASKA CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1, 1908

Organization of this Committee, consisting of forty-five representative Nebraskans, was had February 27, 1907. Three general meetings of the Committee have been held and the executive committee also met twice. The legislature was in session at the time of the organization of the Committee and its first work was to secure the passage of the law then being considered. Hard and persistent work was done by many of the members of the Committee, and the result secured in the passage and signing of our admirable bill was in no small measure due to their fidelity and to the existence of the Committee, which was called into being at the instance of the National Child Labor Committee. The influence of the Committee was exerted toward and secured the appointment of three of their number as members of the Board of Voluntary Inspectors provided for under the law, and it is to the great credit of the Committee that their administration has

been sane, firm and effective and has resulted in winning the confidence and respect of the employers generally. Rev. James Wise, a member of this Committee, was appointed Chairman of the Board of Inspectors by the Governor, and has won friends for the law in every direction. The Board has made 125 official visits during the year, which it is estimated have resulted in the return of about 1,500 children to school. At the time of the passage of the law there were about 3,000 manufacturing establishments in the state, and about 50 per cent of all the working places were concerned with the matter of child labor. At that time about 17.5 per cent of the boys of the state were employed and about 3.8 per cent of the girls of the state were at work, in all representing about 20,000 children under fifteen years of age who might properly be called breadwinners.

The present attitude of the employers is that of endorsement, and there is practically no antagonism. The Chairman of the State Board of Inspectors, Mr. Wise, and the Labor Commissioner, Hon. J. J. Ryder, unite in bearing this testimony. The Labor Commissioner says that this law is better enforced than the law governing fire escapes or that concerning the employment of women.

One of the chief difficulties just now concerns Lincoln more especially, namely, the taking of about 200 Russian children out of school before the end of the term and sending them to the beet fields of Colorado. Mr. Ryder is at work on this problem and it is hoped will be able to find a solution.

The State Committee has contributed \$10.00 toward the incidental expenses of the Chairman of the Board of Inspectors. Invaluable assistance has been rendered by the women's clubs and the Labor Commissioner. The outlook is bright and careful attention will be given by the State Committee to prevent the mutilation of the law on the convening of the legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHEN P. MORRIS,  
*Secretary.*

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#### REPORT OF THE NEW YORK CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

In view of the fact that the New York Child Labor Committee—the first committee of the kind in the United States with a salaried working force—has just completed five years of active service, it may not be inappropriate at this time to mention briefly some of the things it has accomplished during this period. The most noteworthy accomplishment has been the raising of the standard of the statutes affecting working children. In 1903 hundreds of children in New York State eleven, twelve and thirteen years of age, were at work because the law accepted from their parents false affidavits that they were fourteen. Now only documentary evidence, such as the birth certificate, baptismal certificate, passport, etc., can be accepted. Messenger, telegraph, office and delivery boys, and boys engaged in the sale of newspapers, magazines or periodicals—children formerly receiving no protection from the law—are now under its provisions. Evasion of the law by scores of manufacturers who employed children upon affi-

davits alleging them to be sixteen years of age and over, when frequently two to four years younger, has been largely obviated by an amendment to the law which requires employers on demand to produce documentary evidence that children claiming to be sixteen years of age or over are actually that age. Hours of employment have been reduced from ten hours to eight in factories and to nine in mercantile establishments, and overtime work for children is no longer permitted by law. Work in factories must now cease at five p. m. instead of nine o'clock as formerly, and in stores the closing hour is seven p. m. in New York, Buffalo and Rochester, and elsewhere at ten p. m.

The Committee fully realizes that child labor laws, even the best ones, are not self-enforcing, and has therefore bent its energies during these years to co-operate with the officials responsible for their enforcement. Reference was made in the report of the New York Committee at the Cincinnati meeting, December, 1906, to the marked improvement in the enforcement of the law regarding factories by the State Department of Labor. This progress, it is gratifying to report, has continued, and there is every reason to believe that Commissioner John Williams, the successor to former Commissioner P. Tecumseh Sherman, who resigned in the fall of 1907 as head of the department, will vigorously enforce the provisions of the labor law, particularly those affecting the employment of children. The enforcement of the law relative to children working in mercantile establishments has not received, in the opinion of the Committee, anything like proper attention, by reason of the fact that this responsibility is placed upon the local health boards. The Committee is convinced that the transfer of this authority to the State Department of Labor is the only method whereby an adequate enforcement of this law can be secured.

In order to strengthen certain weak points in the law as it then stood, and to raise the standard in other particulars, the Committee conducted an active legislative campaign during the 1907 legislature. As a result, New York State has now upon its statutes a law limiting employment of children in factories to eight hours a day, not before eight in the morning or after five in the afternoon. In order to bring about a better enforcement of the so-called Newsboy Law, it was amended to place the responsibility of enforcement in the hands of the school authorities as well as the police. Other amendments were secured, strengthening the Compulsory Education Law and making more definite the evidence of age features of the provisions regarding the issuance of employment certificates.

In line with the policy of the Committee, it has co-operated in several important investigations. The most important was an investigation, entered into jointly by several organizations, of the employment of children in tenement homes in New York City. This investigation, while disclosing no great amount of new material, was important in securing confirmation of facts regarding conditions of children so employed already fairly well known by social workers. A carefully prepared report of this investigation was recently published in *Charities and the Commons*, and can be secured upon application to the National Consumers' League. The investigation, although covering but a few blocks, shows strongly the need of securing

protection of the law for these child workers. The organizations interested have not yet reached a decision as to the best plan to adopt to put an end to the bad conditions now surrounding work in the home tenements.

The Committee has continued the plan commenced in 1905 of awarding "scholarships" to children in instances where a careful home investigation substantiates the claim that the earnings of the children are needed for the family's support. Much time and effort have been devoted to this phase of our work, and a paid visitor has been employed who devotes her entire services to home and school visits and the many other details involved. The policy of the Committee to limit the scholarships only to such children in whose cases it has been clearly shown the law's enforcement is solely responsible for whatever hardship might be caused by depriving the family of the child's earnings, has been closely followed. Where it is found that the need for sending the child to work illegally is the result of non-employment on the part of an able-bodied father, or intemperance, or some other cause entirely outside of the child's relation to the family, scholarship assistance is not given, but the attention of the proper society is called to the needs of the family. The same procedure in the conduct of this work has been followed since the establishment of scholarships by our Committee. As this work has been described in detail in a little pamphlet entitled "Poverty and Child Labor," issued by the National Child Labor Committee, further particulars will be omitted from this report. The recent statistics regarding scholarships, however, may be of interest. Since the beginning of the plan a few over 900 applications for scholarships have been received, chiefly through school principals. Of this number 196 received scholarship assistance. During the year ending October 1st, 1906 (the first year of the plan), \$2,400 was expended for scholarships. For the following year the cost was \$4,300, and for the six months of the present year a little under \$2,000 has been expended. It should be clearly understood that of the approximately 700 applications which were not granted scholarships, a considerable number of these represented families needing assistance, but as such help did not come within the scope of our scholarship fund it was secured from other sources. The plan continues to receive the cordial co-operation of school authorities, and seems to be greatly appreciated by them. The money for this work was first contributed entirely by a member of the New York Committee. As the demands upon the fund have increased the additional money required has been given by individuals, church and settlement clubs and other interested groups of people.

The somewhat rigid requirements in our state with respect to the filing of documentary evidence of age in order to secure an employment certificate, as might be expected, has caused considerable antagonism to the law. School authorities, church workers, and also settlement and relief society workers in many instances, felt that these provisions of the law were unnecessarily harsh and put the parents, especially the ignorant and foreign ones, to an unreasonable amount of trouble. It was thought by the Committee that much of this feeling of antagonism could be obviated by having in attendance at the office where working papers are issued a person to assist the

parents by explaining the requirements of the law, particularly the procedure in securing the necessary evidence, of age, and in general to disentangle the many snarls and help the children out of their difficulties. In September, 1907, the Committee therefore secured permission to establish a paid agent in the Manhattan office of the health department to assist the parents in the manner indicated. After six months' trial it is believed that plan has been fully justified by the results accomplished. School officials, instead of having to give under protest their valuable time in instructing the children on these points, are now glad to avail themselves of the assistance rendered by our agent, who through her experience and the information at her command is better fitted to advise the children. It has been possible to establish such cordial relations with the officers in charge of issuing certificates, that in minor matters improvements in the conduct of the work have been adopted at the suggestion of our agent. By the constant presence of such a representative, the Committee is able to appreciate better the difficulties of the work, to learn more readily how the law can be improved, and to obtain valuable information not otherwise readily securable regarding the actual enforcement of this feature of the law. So valuable an adjunct to the office has the agent become that a movement is already on foot to establish a similar agency in the Brooklyn office. It is expected when the value of the plan has been conclusively demonstrated, that the Committee will recommend to the proper city authorities that the position be made a municipal one.

During the summer of 1907 an extensive and thorough investigation was conducted regarding the employment of women and children in the canning establishments of the central and western parts of our state. This investigation was not made under the auspices of our Committee, but the results have been placed at the disposal of a number of organizations interested, including the New York Committee. The report of the investigation reveals very serious evils, particularly the employment of children in the sheds from four years of age and upwards, in many instances from early morning until late at night—sometimes until after midnight—and the employment of women workers for six and eight weeks at a stretch for seventy-five and eighty hours a week, exceeding the legal weekly restriction by fifteen to twenty hours. The report and other data upon the subject have been placed in the hands of the Governor, and his decision is now awaited before steps shall be taken towards remedying the evils either by legislation or through the courts by means of prosecutions to be instituted by the Department of Labor.

The legislative program of the Committee this season is smaller than usual, being limited to a bill to transfer the inspection of mercantile establishments to the State Department of Labor. This bill has passed the Assembly and is now pending before the Senate Committee.<sup>2</sup> It is hoped that the bill will ultimately pass, although every effort is being made by the merchants of New York City to defeat the measure.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE A. HALL, *Secretary*.

<sup>2</sup>Passed Senate June 10, signed by the Governor June 12, 1908.



## REPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

While the conditions with respect to child labor in North Carolina factories are not yet ideal, one has but to glance backward at the steady growth of public sentiment and legal restriction during the past five years to see that the progress has been all that could reasonably have been expected. Until two years ago the legislation secured was the result of the strong, general sentiment of the people, acting through no organized body, but yet so definite and positive a force as to make legislators and manufacturers respect and heed it.

Two years ago, however, a strong Child Labor Committee, consisting of some of the state's ablest public men in sympathy with our cause, was organized. Bishop Cheshire, of the Episcopal Church, was chosen Chairman, the writer was selected as Vice-Chairman and Prof. C. L. Coon, Secretary.

Mapping out a plan for strengthening the then existing child labor laws, letters were sent to the leading papers of the state, and, acting on the sound theory that we can have no more useful allies than public-spirited and philanthropic manufacturers themselves, letters were sent to leading mill men, frankly outlining our policies and asking the co-operation of all who recognized the justice of our cause. The replies received, both in tone and character, were very gratifying, and it was largely by means of the co-operation of the bigger-hearted manufacturers, won to our cause in this way, that we were able to make, without opposition on the part of other manufacturing interests, the advances in legislation achieved at the session of the legislature a year ago. Perhaps a more vigorous fight might have won more, and it must be admitted that we were late in beginning our work in the legislature. Bishop Cheshire, the Chairman, and the Vice-Chairman being busily engaged, the work was taken up by Mr. J. W. Bailey and managed with tact and discretion. Under his leadership two important and some minor changes in the law were secured:

(1) The age limit was raised from twelve to thirteen years, except for twelve-year-old children employed solely in apprenticeship capacity and after having attended school at least four months of the preceding twelve.

(2) Children under fourteen were prohibited from engaging in night work, this law taking effect the first of this year.

While not directly affecting children, the growth of public sensitiveness concerning factory conditions was also illustrated by the strengthening of the eleven-hour law, making it apply to operatives of all ages instead of only to those under eighteen as formerly; and another indirect help to the cause of the factory children was the passage of a mild compulsory education law, which will almost certainly be strengthened by the next General Assembly. Looking the field over, the most serious defects in our present child labor law are these: (1) That it does not provide for an adequate system of inspection and enforcement, and (2) that we are allowing girls under fourteen to work in the mills without restrictions. I am sure that the next legislature will very early remedy these two most glaring shortcomings. The manufacturers cannot object to a thorough-going system of inspection, the

only result of which will be to protect the law-abiding mills from being put at a disadvantage by the law-breaking ones, nor can we expect successful opposition to the demand for raising the age limit for girls. The South's sense of gallantry and chivalry is not a delusion, but a definite fact that all classes must reckon with. And in view of the disastrous physical effects of the steady employment in the mills of girls under fourteen—the future mothers of the South's citizenship—not only our sense of chivalry, but the deepest consideration of humanity and patriotism call for this next most important advance in North Carolina child labor legislation. In the name of humanity and womanhood, this reform will be won; and as for other policies of our Committee, it would be presumptuous for me to speak in advance of their meeting. The conservative policy of our North Carolina Committee, while it may not seem to have won all that a more radical course might have attained, has some manifest advantages. First, we must not go too far ahead of the public sentiment, and in the second place, the co-operation of fair-minded and progressive manufacturers has silenced or discredited the opposition on the part of the other manufacturers, who might have criticized our policies as meddlesome, besides getting better feeling and enthusiasm on the whole than would otherwise have been possible.

I think the future of child labor legislation in the South is very bright. If there are two points that the South emphasizes more strongly than anything else, they are its respect for womanhood and the racial supremacy of the whites, and both of these points are so much involved in this question that there seems to be no possible doubt of the success of the cause.

I remember that last summer I spent some time with one of the big plantation owners of the South. I rode out with him one morning last July over his plantation, and saw the negro children going to school with a teacher trained in Booker Washington's School in Tuskegee, all of them given ample educational facilities. That is one side of the picture. That afternoon we went to the cotton mill, and with the older people, there came out a multitude of white children, old-looking, some misshapen, hump-backed and sallow. They reminded me more of Markham's picture of "The Man With the Hoe" than anything I had ever seen. Of course, the child labor law of Georgia is only of recent adoption, but I was told that a boy of fourteen I saw had never been to school at all. The manager of the mill told me so frankly. Well, that illustrates my point about saving the white children. If we are to give children of the colored race the advantages of educational facilities and good health and try to keep the white children bound out in cotton mills, it will mean decadence for the South, and prove us untrue to its ideals.

CLARENCE H. POE,  
*Vice-Chairman.*

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#### REPORT OF THE OHIO CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

The Ohio Committee is pleased to report most satisfactory progress in the work of improving the child labor situation in this state since the last annual meeting of the National Committee.

One of the most advanced laws which regulate child labor in this country has just been enacted by the legislature of this state and will go into effect July 1st, 1908. This measure is known as the Reynolds Bill, having been introduced by Representative Reynolds, of Cleveland, and during the period of its consideration by the legislature, its passage was earnestly advocated by the Ohio Child Labor Committee and by many friends of the movement, including members of several clubs and labor organizations. The measure provides, among other things, that no boy under sixteen and no girl under eighteen shall be employed more than eight hours in any one day, and that at least thirty minutes daily shall be allowed employees for lunch. Another one of the excellent features of this law is the provision for additional factory inspectors, eight of whom may be women.

Considerable opposition to this law has developed among many of the manufacturers of the state, who complain of the eight-hour provision, declaring that business cannot be conducted successfully with a portion of the employees working eight hours and the rest ten hours. Some manufacturers have decided, it is said, to ignore the law with a view to bringing on a test of its constitutionality. It will be interesting to watch the developments of the situation during the next few months.

According to the terms of an agreement made with the National Committee, the Ohio Child Labor Committee is about to be reorganized on a basis which will afford all residents of Ohio who contribute to this anti-child labor movement, the opportunity to keep closely in touch with the work being done by both State and National Committees and have, without extra cost, the double satisfaction of helping to improve conditions in their own state and at the same time supporting the cause in all the other states of the Union. This is to be accomplished by making every member of the National Committee in Ohio a member of the State Committee also, the membership fees to be forwarded, as heretofore, to the National Committee, to be disbursed as needed in the general work. It is expected that this arrangement will result in a large increase in the membership from this state.

Respectfully submitted,  
ALBERT H. FREIBERG,  
*Chairman.*

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## REPORT OF THE CHILD LABOR LEAGUE OF WARREN, OHIO

Progress in local conditions is reported by the executive committee along two lines. It seems certain that some instruction in manual training and cooking will be introduced into our public schools next September. According to the last report of the investigating committee, and the report of the truant officer, no children of school age are at the present time employed illegally in factories.

During the past year, the League held two open meetings. The first

was devoted to a consideration of the physical, educational, moral and social interests of children of school age, and was addressed by a physician, the superintendent of public schools, a clergyman and the mayor. The second meeting, devoted to the subject of manual training in the schools, was addressed by one of the manufacturers, a physician, the principal of the high school and the superintendent of public schools. Various local organizations have discussed the subject of child labor, and the chairman of the League, by invitation, recently presented the subject to one of the local missionary societies.

While the League can boast of no statistical information as to the result of its work, the active co-operation of officials in the enforcement of the law regulating the early employment of children is indicative of efforts well spent.

The League has at present forty members, each of whom is an associate member of the National Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

PHEBE T. SUTLIFF,

*Chairman.*

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#### REPORT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CHILD LABOR ASSOCIATION

The Pennsylvania Child Labor Association, a federation of the local child labor organizations existing in several parts of the state, was formed in the spring of 1907. Inasmuch as the State Legislature is not in session during the present winter (1908), the organization of the state association has not yet been completely effected, each local organization being at present engaged in a campaign of education looking toward concerted action next winter.

I have been requested by the Philadelphia Committee and the Pittsburgh Association to present the following outline of conditions in our state. As reported one year ago, through a court decision declaring two sections of its child labor law unconstitutional, Pennsylvania lost almost all that had been gained by the child labor law of 1905. We sank back to the affidavit evidence of age, the notary issuance of affidavits, the twelve-hour work day and the night work exception for the benefit of the glass industry.

A bill to remedy this condition was introduced last winter by the Pennsylvania Child Labor Committee, but met with the determined opposition of the chief factory inspector, who had introduced an opposition bill allowing the notary issuance of certificates, the glass house exception for night work, and introducing what is even at present not allowed by law, a system of ninety-day special twelve-year-old poverty permits, besides abolishing the present reading and writing test for beginning work. Both the committee's bill and that of the factory inspector failed to pass the legislature. The chief factory inspector thereupon, by interpreting the existing law according to his wishes, removed the reading and writing test as a condition for the issuance of an affidavit. Fortunately the Attorney General has ordered this restored.

One bright spot during the year's history was the passage last winter of a new compulsory education law, raising the age from thirteen to fourteen years (so that it agrees with the child labor law), giving truant officers the right to enter factories, and most important of all, requiring all employers of children to report four times each year to the superintendent of schools the name, age, place of residence and parents' names of every child under sixteen in his establishment. Few superintendents yet realize the powerful instrument the law has placed in their hands, to stop child labor within their districts. In one town, however, the borough of Olyphant, with a total school population of but 1,102, the school superintendent has used the new law with most commendable vigor, succeeding in forcing sixty-seven children out of collieries and silk mills into the schools. The average age of the boys was eleven and one-half years and of the girls twelve years. All these children had affidavits on file showing them to be either fourteen or sixteen years of age.

The association will have the benefit, in its campaign for next winter, of the important material now being gathered by investigators connected with the Pittsburg Survey.

FREDERICK S. HALL,  
*Secretary.*

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## REPORT OF THE RHODE ISLAND JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILD LABOR

By invitation of the executive committee of the Providence Public Education Association, certain organizations in the state working in behalf of the betterment of conditions and opportunities for Rhode Island working children were asked to send delegates to a conference to consider the advisability of joint co-operation in some practical direction. The societies represented at this conference, ten in number, formed themselves into a joint committee, and, on January 30, 1908, held two public meetings—the afternoon meeting on the subject of "Child Labor," the evening meeting on "The True Ideal of a Public School System that Aims to Benefit All." Both meetings were well attended. Dr. E. W. Lord, secretary for New England of the National Child Labor Committee, and Mrs. Florence Kelley, of the National Consumers' League, were the principal speakers at the afternoon meeting, presided over by Bishop McVickar, Chairman of the Rhode Island Child Labor Committee.

The general interest in the meetings seemed to indicate an aroused public sentiment in favor of better legislation for the working children of the state. The joint committee decided to present a bill to the present Assembly asking that the limit of the day's work for children be put at seven p. m. instead of eight as at present, and that the privilege given mercantile establishments of exemption from the law for four days before Christmas and on Saturday nights be withdrawn. The bill also required that to obtain a working certificate a child of fourteen must show ability to read and write simple sentences in English, and that there be no sufficient reason to doubt that such child

was physically able to perform the work which it intended to do. It was asked that this bill go into effect September, 1909. The committee to which the bill was referred by the House, amended it to go into effect in September, 1910, and also inserted another amendment giving the factory inspectors the right to demand of proprietors or managers of factories satisfactory evidence that a child apparently under sixteen, and whose employment certificate is not filed, is actually over sixteen.

The bill as amended passed the House the latter part of April and was sent to the Senate and by them referred to the Committee on Special Legislation, where it now lies. The Assembly has taken a week's recess and it is possible the bill may yet get before the Senate this year.<sup>3</sup> The women's clubs representing the State Federation have been loyally supporting the bill through their delegate on the Joint Committee, and the Child Labor Committee of the Consumers' League has also exerted itself in its behalf.

MRS. CARL BARUS,  
*Chairman, Joint Committee.*

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#### REPORT OF THE WISCONSIN CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

The Wisconsin child labor law of 1903 had been in effect between three and four years when the biennial session of 1907 approached. Its enforcement had shown it to be one of the most useful and practical laws, and it seemed necessary to take a step forward.

Two features of the law had been often questioned: (1) Vacation permits in specified industries at twelve and thirteen years. (2) The granting of permits by factory inspectors. After long consideration and study, the Wisconsin Child Labor Committee decided that it could not recommend the refusal of vacation permits until municipal playgrounds and truant officers were greatly increased in number, nor any present curtailment of powers of factory inspectors.

But several weaknesses of our law we determined to correct by providing for: (1) A detailed and thorough dangerous employment clause. (2) An educational test. (3) A nine-hour day for children under sixteen; work forbidden after six at night or before seven in the morning, and some minor changes, such as requiring uniform application and permit forms, prompt report to the commissioner of labor on all applications or permits and increase in the test of physical efficiency. In the sharp contest that ensued, these minor improvements were lost in committee, but were not rejected on their merits and will later win their way.

The bill was amended in committee at the eleventh hour, by the insertion of a perishable goods clause demanded by the canning factory interests, permitting night work to children under sixteen "in cases where it is necessary to save perishable goods from serious damage." We hope to report

<sup>3</sup>By amendments, the educational requirement was stricken out, and employment of children in mercantile establishments was permitted up to 10 p. m. on Saturday; but even in this weakened form the bill failed of passage.

at the 1909 meeting that this reactionary clause has been stricken from our law.

Three new sections were sought to be incorporated in the law at the session of 1907:

I. A dangerous employment clause, one of the most thorough in the country, modeled closely on the Illinois law of 1905, was put into the Wisconsin law.

Besides thorough dangerous machinery clauses, mentioning machines and trades by name in detail, the law forbids employment of children under sixteen: (a) In tobacco warehouses, cigar factory, etc.; (b) In any place where intoxicating liquors are made, given away or sold; (c) In any theatre or concert hall; and has at the end a general clause forbidding the employment of children under sixteen "in any other employment dangerous to life or limb, injurious to the health or depraving the morals of such child."

We were surprised and delighted that such a drastic law went through so easily. Results: Probably one thousand children dismissed under this act by breweries, stamping factories, etc., and a tremendous gain in health, morals and safety of employees. There will be still more wide-reaching effects if the casualty companies construe the general clause as many of them have been inclined to do.

II. *The Educational Test.*—We asked for the simplest kind of an educational test, and provided for certificate by principal of public, private or parochial school, countersigned by superintendent of schools, that applicant could read simple sentences in English or in his native language.

The test in this last shape was put into the law but robbed of much of its force by striking out the certificate clause and throwing the duty of educational examination on the factory inspector or other officer to whom application is made.

III. *The Nine-Hour-Day Clause.* The nine-hour-day clause proved to be the center of the conflict, and behind the ten-hour day were ranged all the forces of the manufacturers and merchants, and the hardest fight the friends of child labor restriction in Wisconsin had ever known was the result. The opposition to the nine-hour day seemed to result partly from the feeling that it was the prelude to the application for an eight-hour day and might prove to be a part of the socialist or union labor demand for an eight-hour day for all laborers. The fact that any reduction from ten hours would throw out of work many children now employed as helpers, or would make it troublesome to limit their hours while the general factory day is ten hours, and the further fact that in stores and in certain manufacturing industries children could be profitably employed for ten hours, furnished the ammunition for the enemies of the nine-hour clause. It is not necessary to rehearse the history of the fight nor to enlarge upon the tactics employed by the opponents of the law. It is probable that had we consented to let the nine-hour clause go, the friends of the children could have drawn about what child labor bill they wanted in other respects and it would have been passed. The final result was, as so often happens, a

compromise of fifty-five hours a week instead of the very much better and more workable provision of six nine-hour days. But a straight step in advance was taken, and we hope the Legislature of 1911, and possibly of 1909, may give the straight nine-hour day and better limit the working hours in the evening.

It is interesting and hopeful to note the increasing number of statements from manufacturers and large employers of labor that work of children under sixteen is economically unprofitable; and we hope the application of the dangerous employment clauses and the fifty-five hours a week will pave the way for a straight nine-hour day.

The Committee is glad to record that, however its proposed laws may have been opposed, the laws passed have been, in the vast majority of cases, thoroughly and honestly obeyed by manufacturers and large employers of labor. The general outlook in Wisconsin is very hopeful but there is need of much improved legislation regulating street trades.

#### STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Latest official report (another to be issued this summer) shows 16,458 permits issued in Wisconsin in two years ending October 31, 1906. Accuracy impossible, because law does not compel a report of all permits issued.

Of 200,000 people employed, 3.6 per cent, or 7,157, were children of fourteen or fifteen. Only 156, six of whom were in Milwaukee and 150 outside, were reported as under fourteen, and these were dismissed. While Milwaukee shows one-half the adult workers of the state, it had considerably more than half the children. Nearly four-fifths of all employees work ten hours a day. About 4 per cent of all permits issued are vacation permits. Almost twice as many boys as girls were given regular permits. Average public school attendance, four years. Average parochial school attendance, six to seven years. Less than one-third of 1 per cent had attended no school. Most reliable estimates for year ending December 31, 1907: Regular permits, 6,000; vacation permits, 390; prosecution of employers, 27; children under sixteen dismissed, 440; children dismissed under 1907 law, 1,350; permits refused, 425.

EDWARD W. FROST,  
*Chairman.*

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#### REPORTS FOR THE SOUTHERN STATES

##### VIRGINIA.

A strong child labor committee was organized in Virginia in the fall of 1907, with Senator Eugene C. Massie as chairman. A child labor bill was introduced in the early days of the Legislature of 1908 by Senator Massie, but was vigorously opposed by representatives of the cotton mill and tobacco factory interests. A compromise measure was agreed upon, raising the age limit from twelve to thirteen in 1909 and fourteen in 1910. One provision of the new law excited so much opposition from the manu-



facturing interests that it bids fair to be effective. It provides that the employment of children under the legal age shall be *prima facie* evidence of guilt on the part of both employer and parent.

A compulsory education law similar to the North Carolina statute was also adopted by the Virginia Legislature under the vigorous prosecution of J. D. Eggleston, Superintendent of Public Instruction for Virginia and a valued member of the Virginia Child Labor Committee.

#### NORTH CAROLINA.

A report for North Carolina is presented elsewhere by Clarence H. Poe.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA.

In South Carolina, Rev. A. E. Seddon has been conducting some investigations for the National Committee, some account of which has been given in his paper on the "Education of Mill Children in the South." A South Carolina Committee has not been organized. The material is being gathered for it and it is hoped that a vigorous campaign will be fought before the coming Legislature to raise the age limit and also to secure compulsory education.

#### FLORIDA.

We are yet without a child labor committee in Florida, though there are a number of local committees devoted to the child labor subject belonging to the different women's clubs of the State, which have been very active and aggressive. It was due to them and the labor unions that the Florida bill was passed last year, and they are earnest in their efforts to raise the age limit from twelve to fourteen and to provide for factory inspection. The child labor evil in Florida is almost wholly confined to the cigar factories in three cities and the oyster packing industries on the coast.

#### GEORGIA.

The Georgia Child Labor Committee is circularizing the members of the Legislature with regard to the passage of the three bills now on the calendar by the second term of the Legislature, which meets in June. These three measures are: a provision for factory inspection, the reduction of the hours from sixty-six to sixty a week, and the cutting off of the exceptions to the twelve-year age limit which permit ten-year-old children to be employed under certain circumstances.

#### ALABAMA.

In Alabama there has been no change in the situation since the passage of the child labor bill reported last fall. The inspector of jails and factories was given an assistant and an increased appropriation by the last Legislature. I understand that, on account of his sickness, very little work has been done with regard to factory inspection.

## MISSISSIPPI.

A child labor committee was formed in Mississippi in the fall of 1907, and at the same time an investigation into the conditions of the Mississippi mills was made by Rev. A. E. Seddon on behalf of the National Committee. Mr. Seddon reported that 25 per cent of the operatives were under fourteen and 50 per cent of the children were illiterate. The facts secured by this investigation were effectively used by the Mississippi Child Labor Committee in the passage of the child labor bill for that state. On account of the opposition of the mill owners, the age limit was reduced from fourteen to twelve before the bill could be passed; and it was provided that the sheriffs of the different counties should aid the work of factory inspection until other men were provided.

## LOUISIANA.

The Secretary for the Southern States has been in correspondence with Miss Jean M. Gordon, Factory Inspector for the Parish of New Orleans, with regard to the organization of a child labor committee for Louisiana, although the Era Club, of New Orleans, is an organization vitally interested in this matter. An effort will be made at the coming session of the Legislature in May to amend the present child labor law.

## TENNESSEE.

I have no report from Tennessee, though the members of the Committee were active at the meeting of the Textile Conference in Nashville last fall, at which a program of improved legislation was adopted and commended to the Southern States. They have not had a meeting, I believe, since the adjournment of the Legislature in the spring of 1907, but they succeeded, with the aid of the labor forces, in shortening the hours from sixty-six to sixty a week.

## ARKANSAS.

In Arkansas an independent committee was formed without any affiliation with the National Committee, except the use of its literature, which was freely supplied. The Arkansas Legislature last year amended its child labor law, raising the age limit from twelve to fourteen, and from ten to twelve for the children of dependent parents. There were other important improvements in the old law.

## OKLAHOMA.

The Oklahoma Legislature is now considering the passage of a child labor bill and a compulsory education bill in accordance with the constitutional requirements, and it is confidently expected that these bills will become laws in substantially unchanged form, and will serve as a model to many of the states which have not yet reached their standard.

## TEXAS.

Interest is developing in Texas concerning the needed amendments to the Texas child labor law, which has not been touched for several years. It is hoped that a state committee can be organized in Texas in the near future, and that a successful effort will be made before the Texas Legislature of 1909 to raise the standard of child labor legislation in that state.

A. J. MCKELWAY,

*Secretary for the Southern States, National Child Labor Committee.*

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SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE THIRD FISCAL YEAR,  
SEPTEMBER 30, 1907

## I. LEGISLATION—STATE.

During the third fiscal year legislatures in eighteen States enacted child labor laws of importance, Florida placing a law on the statute books for the first time. Alabama, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Vermont, Minnesota, Idaho, Tennessee and South Carolina enacted important amendments. The net results of the year justify the belief that more complete organization in the various states would place this Committee in a position to powerfully influence needed legislation in all parts of the country.

In New Jersey a bill to prohibit the employment at night of boys under sixteen was defeated by the combined influence of the glass manufacturers and their employees. In Pennsylvania a bill was presented by the Pennsylvania Committee to correct flagrant defects in the present Pennsylvania law. This was defeated through the influence of manufacturing interests, the adverse activities of the factory inspection department and the inability of the Pennsylvania Committee or of this Committee to pursue the campaign with the persistency required by the situation. Had the National Child Labor Committee been able to maintain skilled workers at the Harrisburg Legislature during the last two months of the legislative session, it is probable that not less than 10,000 children would be in school who are to-day in the mines and factories of that State.

## FEDERAL.

Five important child labor bills before Congress received the attention of the National Child Labor Committee, especially through the personal efforts of the Secretary, Dr. Lindsay, and of Assistant Secretary Dr. McKelway, at Washington:

1. A bill to incorporate. By Act of Congress, the National Child Labor Committee received articles of incorporation dated March 8, 1907.
2. The District of Columbia Child Labor Bill, held over from the preceding session, was favorably considered in both Houses, but failed of passage.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup>Passed May 28, 1908.